



GUILDFORD HOCKEY CLUB
In Touch

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This newsletter will also be published on the web-site

Surprise: The South 3b Champions drop a point.

Mens 1s miss the play-offs for Premier in 1 -3 loss to Champions
University of Exeter.

Club hosted successful Surrey Ladies vets tournament..

Row 2 Rome

Please bring your sponsorship money with you.

This is a big day, will benefit the club and the charities, will be great fun and there are prizes too.

- + 1 year gym membership & a Personal Training session at The Gym, Guildford (thegymgroup.com)
- + A meal for two (including a bottle of wine) at Zizzi, Guildford
- + A 40min sports massage (boxgenesis.com)
- + Luxury bedding from Dr Twiner

+ many more...

**Get your team parties up for
The Club & Awards Dinner
April 4th**

**Sparkling reception, classy 3 course dinner, wine, music.
£30 and bring a raffle prize.**

All results, league tables and full fixture list can be found through [website](#)

Men's fixtures for next two weeks

March 28th			
2 nd	Canterbury	H	1500
3 rd	Wimbledon	H	1400
Shadows	UCL Academicals	A	1000
4 th	TBA		
Pilgrims	City Of Oxford	H	1530
Gondoliers	Winchester	A	1500
March 29th			
1 st	Old Georgians	H	1400
April 4th			
Pilgrims	Haslemere	A	1400
April 5th			
4 th	UCL	H	1400

Ladies Fixtures for next two weeks

March 28th				
1 st	Wimbledon	L	H	1200
2 nd	Tulse Hill & D	L	H	1330
3 rd	Richmond	L	A	1500
4 th	Reigate	F	H	1100
5 th	Walton	L	H	1230
Fireflies	Havant	F	A	1130
April 4th				
1 st				
2 nd	Wanderers	L	A	1100
3 rd	Barnes/H/E	L	H	1200
4 th	Maori Vamps	F	H	1330
5 th	Fireflies	F	H	1230
Fireflies	GHC 5 th	F	H	1230

Mens Reports

EHL Conference West

Guildford 1 (Emery) University of Exeter 3

This was an important game for both sides, we had to win the game to maintain any hope of winning the league and Exeter knew that they only had to draw the game to win the league.

The first half was close with both sides having a share of the possession. Exeter seemed to have the best of the

opportunities, winning a number of short corners. However they were reluctant to let their main striker take it from the top and they barely managed to threaten the goal, taking the game into the break with no score.

The second saw a sluggish Guildford take to the field conceding an early goal. As on so many occasions this sparked the side back into life, & after a short period we managed to bring the score level again.

The game continued with Guildford having most of the possession and putting pressure on the home side. Exeter even seemed to lose their nerve, clearing the ball to the other end of the pitch at every opportunity. Their intention being to remove the immediate pressure and to keep the game in our half however possible. Despite negative hockey we failed to achieve win any shots on goal let alone a short corner.

Exeter even managed to take advantage of a turnover to score a couple of goals which secured them the win. We kept up the fight to the end of the match, but credit where it is due Exeter were the better side on the day and deserved the win overall. They have done fantastically well this season, and we wish them the best of luck in the playoff (if only so we don't have to make that trip again).

Other results this weekend mean we go into the final game (at home) needing to beat Old Georgians in order to finish the season in second. It would be great to see everyone on the sideline one last time for this massive game & to support all the rowers throughout the day.

London League Premier

Guildford 2s 1 Southgate 3

With Richmond winning their last game last week, and Old Georgians unlikely to pick up any more points, the job for Guildford's 2nd XI was simple. Win one of the last two games, and guarantee avoiding relegation.

Unfortunately, with Captain Big Face refusing to go down with the ship and leaving sunny blighty for the slopes of Europe, Mark opting for paid work (despite the offer of £40 to play from Scully!), Si having something better to do with a lady friend, and Sandy retiring for the season, Guildford had a bare 11 to face a strong Southgate side sitting fourth in the table. This resulted in some enforced tactical jiggery-pokery, which saw Batch moved into midfield.

Needing to get off to a good start, Guildford did exactly the opposite, with Southgate managing to get off shot after shot, seemingly stronger, and consistently first to the break down and every 50-50. Although reduced to 10 after their last man pulled down Rawlings who had done him for pace, Southgate were still very dangerous, and after they crashed a reverse hit off the cross bar, the first goal had an air of inevitability about it as the same player was allowed to walk past 3 Guildford players and final slot it past Max from the tightest of angles. Not for the first time this season, conceding the goal seemed to be the catalyst for better things from the home side as they started to hold on to the ball better, after Sean was dropped into centre-mid to support Alan. This resulted in a string of short corners, testing Southgate's less than convincing defences. Finally, the scores were level as Scully was fouled in the process of shooting from close range; Sean buried the resulting penalty in off the left upright.

The rest of the first half was close, Guildford were living better with their opponents, Booty and Batch working the width well, Southgate were still dangerous going forward. Moments before half time they were back in front when their forward found a way past Scully, possibly with the help of a foot, and although the initial shot was well saved, the rebound fell unkindly to another Southgate player who rolled the ball over the goal line.

After the half time break, Guildford went out the blocks hard, and in not much time at all, had won themselves another penalty from another short corner. Unfortunately, this time Sean didn't show the same conviction and hooked the ball well wide. But still Guildford pressed, and chance after chance at the far post went begging as the likes of Robbie and Chris Rawlings failed to connect with balls that went tantalisingly close. But pushing this hard was always going to leave Guildford exposed, at the back. Time and again they were nearly caught out, but for some good tackling from Relphy, and some sharp reflex saves in the Guildford goal from close range.

Southgate were again reduced to 10, and in a bizarre incident involving cross words between the two teams' coaching staff, Sandy was sent to the club house for clearly using banter that wasn't to the Umpire's liking. But Guildford couldn't capitalise, and with 5 minutes left on the clock the game was killed off as a Southgate short corner was slammed down the middle past an unsighted Max in the Guildford goal.

And that, as they say, was that. Paul 'broke his rib skiing, sounds like Karma to me' Lavis picked up Dick of the Day for simply not being there, (despite Sean's flick miss) cementing his position as Dick of the Season with one game left. More importantly, Guildford now must win in their last game of the season against Canterbury, to secure their place in the London Premier League.

MOM: Max Deeley

DOD: Paul Lavis

Guildford 3s	3	Southgate	0
Shadows	2	Sanderstead	3 (Turner, Dye)

Earlier on in the season we played Sanderstead 1s away and got stuffed 9-0. Remembering also Guildford Shadows are a 4th select XI where the majority don't train and Sanderstead 1s are a 1st team with a player coach (who could be playing at a much much higher level), a coach on the sidelines and more matching waterbottles than our 1s and 2s put together... Oh and they're top of the league and we're in an underachieving 2nd to bottom place...

So bearing all that in mind we should have been destroyed... This season's skipper was away in Oz so it was left to last year's skipper to take over the reins and get the team motivated but still it was a tall ask.

However the first 10 mins it was all Guildford. In the first minute we were cruelly denied what looked like a caste iron penalty stroke and yellow card for the Sanderstead defender for a tackle on Jonny Dye more at home in the UFC, but one umpire was unsighted the other still adjusting his watch so long corner given. But we kept on pushing and this really unsettled Sanderstead (who were only kept in the game by their outstanding keeper) and finally through a lovely reverse stick finish through the keeper's legs by James Turner we went 1-0 up – game on!!! Sanderstead then remembered how to play hockey as they had all season and eventually got the equaliser before half time.

At half time words of encouragement from one and all and a bit of wonder why we hadn't performed with so much desire previously in the season. Guildford then went out and matched Sanderstead play for play tackle for tackle with some awesome last ditch tackling by all of the back four and good saves by Woody.

Guildford then got their 2nd goal with the goal of the season, short passes, possession, overlapping full back, and first time volley by Jonny Dye – 2-1 Guildford, come on!!

Sadly it wasn't to be. Sanderstead got the equaliser and then pushed like mad for the winner and eventually it came a few minutes from the end, met by ungentlemanly celebrating and goading by the Sanderstead forwards.

On reflection an outstanding performance by the Guildford underdogs but equally gutting to have lost after such work. Perhaps it was the lack of training, lack of confidence at the end of a poor season, or maybe a lack of coaches and waterbottles but in the end we came up short.

Still 2 to play and if we play like that we'll romp home in the next games. Sanderstead 1s will be promoted and in a separate division next season – I'm not sure we'll miss them...

made three saves in a row a rebound ended up being bundled in by Eastbourne. They then had a couple more chances to stretch their lead, hitting the post once and Tappy making a full length last ditch dive to turn the ball round the post.

Rather than being shocked into action by the loss of our fabulous record of only conceding nine goals so far we played as though we were just shocked. No-one seemed to be able to pull their heads back into the game and if it wasn't for some fabulous tackling from Kate, Kit, Sals, Ems & Theks the scoreline could have been much higher.

With 10mins to go to half time, Kate stepped up into midfield and put some pressure on the opposition, breaking down their attacks earlier and combining well with Jade, Alice & Chip to create some openings. The Eastbourne keeper somehow managed to stop everything except a little sneaky deflection from Lucy which caught her marker & the keeper unawares to make it one all.

Everyone expected us to go on to score plenty more but again their keeper stopped everything. In the second half, when the keeper was beaten there were players on the line making some fantastic stops, including a great one from Sally's sweep at a short. Eastbourne played like their lives depended on it and defended strongly. Jade felt the bulk of their desire to keep us out being sent flying 5 times in a 10 minute spell of pressure in the second half.

Finally it looked as though we had the breakthrough when the keeper was beaten and a defender had no choice but to stop the ball on the line with her foot. A flick was awarded and Emski stepped up to take it. But again the keeper came to their rescue as she pulled off a great save to keep the ball out. No matter what we did we could not get any rhythm in our play and any speed or momentum going. Try as we might, we just could not get the telling pass or shot away to finish the game off and so it ended as a draw.

Eastbourne were highly delighted to draw and deserved the point. They were also excellent hosts, Jade's sister even provided cakes with Congratulations spelt across them to celebrate us winning the league. Thank you.

So on to Wimbledon for the last match of the season. We will be missing a few key players but still have a target of getting +100 goal difference. It's in our hands.

Congratulations to Man of the Match – Kate – for both her attacking and defensive play.

Commiserations to D of the Day – Good Cop – for going on holiday before the season is over.

Guildford 2s	1	Old Kingstonians	4
Guildford 3s	4	UCL	0

Guildford 3rds certainly wanted revenge for the earlier meeting of these two sides - and they took it, emphatically! Focussed aggression complemented "cool heads" to ensure that the 3rds played some of their best hockey this season. UCL had first push back but Guildford pressured them right from the start. They were never allowed to settle into their game and consequently Guildford knew they had the undoing of them. Straight away Guildford pushed forward from the right with strong runs from both Manchie and Charlie. Forwards pressured to ensure there were a significant number of short corners but unfortunately none were converted. Only just before half time did the breakthrough come as a pass from the right was eventually pushed into the goal by Izzy. (1-0 - more pressure for the Ugglies). Then in an almost copycat move came the second goal (Kate swept it in) just before half time. UCL's heads were down and you could almost feel their desperation for the half time whistle to blow.

Despite the strong start Guildford knew that 2 goals was not enough to ensure a win. UCL were still strong (not 2nd in the league for nothing) but since we continued to play as we did in the first half, the realisation that it was our day, not theirs, grew stronger and stronger. With only one slight hitch (a great save from Rachel) and only one short corner conceded (not converted) it was evident that Guildford 3rds wanted not just a win but a rout! They didn't have to wait too long. With a great effort from Izzy the 3rd goal came, followed shortly afterwards by another from Kate. 4-0 - we got our rout!!!

Well done Ladies

MOM - Izzy and Kate

DOD - Kate - unjustly so!!!

Guildford 4s	2	Univ of Surrey	1
Guildford 5s	7	London Wayferers	0

Surrey Ladies Veterans Tournament.

On Sunday we hosted the Surrey Ladies Vets Tournament at Broadwater. It was a glorious sunny day and the squad arrived eager to play some good hockey. Unfortunately we only managed to muster 11 players on Sunday, even though it had looked as if we would have a squad of 14 the previous weekend. However, our first game was against Cheam, and Edge heard them say that as the games were only 20 minutes long, they would camp in our half and try to take an early lead. This inspired us to play some very determined hockey and we actually camped in **their** half having shot after shot blocked by their keeper! At full time it was still 0 – 0, but we had played the better hockey and deserved more. Our second game was against a strong Camberley and Farnborough team who thought they'd beat us easily. They didn't count on our superb defending and when the ball was slipped through to Edge on the forward line, they had nobody in their half to tackle her and she took the ball right up to their ex-England keeper and slipped it neatly underneath to score a great goal! This unsettled them quite noticeably and they tried by fair means and foul to make up the deficit.....but we held firm and Katy almost made it 2 – 0. We came off the pitch with our first win. Next we played Epsom, who were the strongest team in our group, and again, we played with determination to stop them from scoring. It was only in the dying seconds that their left wing, who had run Mel ragged, gave her the slip and slotted past Kirsten. Without Kirsten in goal, they probably would have scored 4 or 5 against us. Our last group game was against Maori Vamps. They started well with a goal in the first 5 minutes, but we battled back and were awarded a penalty flick when the ball was stopped on the line with a foot. Mel calmly slotted the ball away to bring us level. Not long after this Katy, to her sheer delight, scored the winning goal! We packed up to adjourn to the bar, only to be told we had come 2nd in our group and needed to stay on to play Woking in the semi-final. We were not overjoyed by this however as the Woking team was made up of their ex-National League players and we didn't stand a chance against them! They went on to beat Wimbledon in the final and will represent Surrey at the South finals in April.

A big thank you to Dave for supplying the food and to Helen, Rohanna and Owen for manning the kitchen and bar all day. Guildford Hockey Club did themselves proud and there were many comments of appreciation!

Colts Report

Guildford U14 Development Team v Epsom

Result: Won 6-2

Scorers: Ed Harris (2), Scott Gotham, Ollie Baker (2), Jack Baker

Another glorious sunny morning for hockey and the team gathered for its final game of the season. Both teams were one player short, but Scott Gotham and Ollie Baker stepped in from the A team to help out and Matthew Cockerill kindly played for the opposition in the first half. We had a few words before we started about where we were going wrong in previous games, and the boys responded by playing some excellent hockey. At last we were passing the ball to each other rather than giving it away or dribbling into trouble, making ourselves available for the pass, tackling back in midfield, marking up in defence, all simple stuff but it made a huge difference. We had numerous chances before Ed Harris scored the first goal with a fine strike from a narrow angle. Two more goals were scored before Matthew Cockerill scored one for Epsom just before half time.

Matthew Ewen transferred to the Epsom team in the second half. We restarted slowly, and Epsom scored a second goal making it 3-2. However the team responded well, supported each other and everyone woke up to realise the game wasn't won yet. This resulted in another fine passage of play with complete domination by Guildford and 3 more goals scored. One memorable goal started from defence in our right hand corner and with several passes it was finally finished off with a shot from Scott Gotham. Everyone played their part and this was a great team performance.

This has been a 'young' development squad for the age group and it has been good to see everyone improve as the season went on. It has been a difficult season with several training sessions and matches cancelled due to bad weather, and it has taken a while for everyone to settle in to their positions and to get to know each other. We have lost matches against opposition who are older and bigger, but it has been excellent to see how the team has kept going and finally won the last game.